



VOICE OF THE APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE OF THE IPHC

MESSENGER

Vol. 86, No. 7 – August 2025

JOIN US FOR OUR



ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23RD

COFFEE AND DOUGHNUTS FROM 8:45-9:25AM

MEETING AND ELECTIONS START AT 9:30AM

5847 OAK GROVE PLACE • DUBLIN, VA 24084

WWW.APPCONF.ORG

SEPTEMBER RETIRED MINISTERS' BIRTHDAYS

September 1

Rev. Donald Scott
654 Ivanhoe Road
Max Meadows, VA 24360

September 11

Rev. Jimmie Price
3392 Mt. Zion Road
Blacksburg, VA 24060

September 20

Rev. Ben Mewald
733 Palmer Avenue
Salem, VA 24153

September 22

Rev. Mrs. Linda Alley
602 Ft. Chiswell Road
Max Meadows, VA 24360

September 30

Rev. Ms. Margaret Rogers
630 Sunset Blvd.
Gainesville, GA 30501

September 30

Rev. Jerry Shepherd
3063 Glasgow Road
Christiansburg, VA 24073

LAWRENCE L. JERSEY 1950-2025



Rev. Lawrence Jersey stepped from this life to eternal life on Wednesday, July 16. He transferred from Oklahoma to the Appalachian Conference in 1990, having been licensed in 1976. He pastored the P.H. church in Greeneville, TN, for a

number of years. He is survived by his wife, Patricia, two sons and their families. A celebration of his life was held on July 20 at Thrive Church in Greeneville.

Appalachian Conference *Messenger*

Vol. 86— August 2025— No. 7

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Conference Board

Superintendent – Larry Meadors
Asst. Superintendent –
Secretary/Treasurer – Frank Neff
Board Member – C.J. Cole
Board Member – Ron Fredericks
Board Member – Wanda Myers
Board Member – Todd Porter

Deadline for all script to reach the office:

First of each month for the next month's issue
Email to Sandy Wood at woodsh12@gmail.com

WEBSITE: www.appconf.org



The Bishop's Page

Larry Meadors



Weeds in your garden

A few years ago, I decided to remove the mulch from around my house. It was a big job! I diligently put down the landscape fabric around all the shrubs. The next step was spreading the 10 tons of river rock by hand around the house. It turned out looking great. My hope was that it was practical as well.

I thought that my weed problem was solved! That was my thought but not my reality. To my disbelief, there were weeds growing in the middle of my rocks. It's amazing how quickly a weed can sprout. A weed is a survival specialist. They can grow in a sliver of soil and thrive in a drought. The desired cultivated plants don't stand a chance when weeds begin choking them out.

As I was pulling weeds the other day, I was reminded of how sin can grow in an unchecked heart. It requires work and diligence to keep our heart free of the sinful weeds that choke out the good growth of the Holy Spirit. The writer of Hebrews uses this analogy in warning us about the root of bitterness. In that context the warning was to watch out for the trouble and the defiling nature caused by this rooted sin.

This same passage in Hebrews 12 exhorts us to holiness. Maybe a good working definition of holiness should be daily weed pulling! I have daily work to do. How about you? How does your garden look?



ANNUAL CONFERENCE SATURDAY, AUGUST 23



Pastors, please register your church delegates. The registration form is available at appconf.org.

I look forward to seeing you on our Annual Conference day. New this year will be a time of connection before the meeting. Come early for fresh doughnuts and coffee and great conversation. There will also be free books available. Come early for the best selection!

We are pleased to welcome Bishop Talmadge Gardner back to the Conference as our presiding officer. There will be an unscheduled election for the position of assistant superintendent. This is due to my assuming the duties of superintendent.

Also, as part of the day, I will be sharing the vision that God has birthed in my heart for our Conference. I have been looking forward to this, as I believe we live in exciting times.

THE CALL – August 15-17, 2025

Another highly anticipated event is The Call. The Awakening is bringing this national event to our conference. Please encourage those young adults who are trying to figure out what God is saying to them about ministry to come to this powerful weekend.



IF YOU HAVE A SENSE OF A CALL ON YOUR LIFE BUT ARE STILL DISCOVERING HOW THIS WILL UNFOLD, OR YOU HAVE ALREADY BEGUN WALKING IT OUT FOR SOME TIME NOW, THIS EVENT IS FOR YOU!

The call is an event for young adults ages 18 and up who feel a call to ministry and to possibly pioneer something for the Lord. During this gathering, you can expect to meet like-minded people, build ongoing relationships, and receive training from quality leaders and speakers who each have the desire to assist you in pursuing the will and purposes of God for your life.

**DATE – Friday, August 15, 5:00 PM –
Sunday, August 17, 12:00 PM**

Appalachian Conference Campgrounds/\$59 for the weekend



**Scan here
to
Register**

OPEN

ENROLLMENT

Ministerial Credentialing Program

JULY 15TH

➔

August 30th

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL

Contact Dr. Derick Burton

✉ schoolofministryac@gmail.com

🌐 www.appconf.org/clergy-development



LARRY MEADORS INSTALLED AS CONFERENCE SUPERINTENDENT



On Monday, June 30, 2025, a group of leaders, ministers, family and friends gathered in the Training Center of the Appalachian Conference to witness the installation of a new superintendent for the Appalachian Conference. With Bishop Doug Beacham presiding, Rev. Larry Meadors was installed as the 16th Superintendent of the Appalachian Conference. It was clear that this was a sacred moment for Bishop Meadors, his wife Gloria and the Appalachian Conference, as you could sense the Holy Spirit enveloping them, establishing their leadership and setting direction for the Conference. Bishop Beacham was joined by former Bishop Preston Mathena, the conference executive council, Rev. Walter Lee Wood (Bishop Meador's childhood pastor), along with some local ministers and spouses. While we celebrate, remember and honor the past and those who have led us to this point, with excitement and anticipation we look forward to the days ahead as God continues to lead through Bishop Meadors. God's blessings, leadership and anointing upon him and his family in the days ahead. (Ron Fredericks)

Meadors grew up in Roanoke, Virginia, attending one of the Appalachian Conference's five original churches, New Life Christian Ministries, as a third-generation member of the IPHC. Meadors' mother and grandmother were instrumental in ensuring he stayed in church and learned about the love of a Savior who was steadfast and true. Meadors recalls a story from his shy pre-teen years when his grandmother, a simple, country woman, said to him as he left the church, "Larry, you gonna make a preacher!" Young, introverted Larry replied with, "Grandma, I don't wanna be a preacher. I just wanna be a Christian." Little did he know what the Lord had in store for him.

At 16, Meadors felt the call into ministry, and he and a friend started a before-school "chapel." It was in this place that he came face-to-face with the love of his life, Gloria: "She sat down in a desk behind me one morning, and when I turned around to say hello, I met the biggest, most beautiful smile I'd ever seen in my life. I fell in love at first sight." At the time, Gloria didn't quite feel the same, but they remained friends.

Meadors went on to attend Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Oklahoma, from 1980 to 1984, studying for a Pastoral Ministry degree; he occasionally ran into Gloria when he returned to the Roanoke area on breaks from school. On one visit, Gloria decided to give dating a go, and in the fall of 1983, at the beginning of Meadors' senior year of college, they were married. Following graduation, Meadors assumed that the Lord would provide a job quickly, and they wouldn't return to the Roanoke area. A job didn't materialize, so the Meadors returned home, and he picked up a hammer, choosing to work in construction. Not long after, Meadors felt compelled to visit Walter Lee Wood at his home church to ask permission to assist with the youth program. Wood told Meadors, "I can't pay you anything," and he responded, "I didn't ask for anything." Wood did "find" \$100/week for Meadors, and he remained there for five years in youth pastor and associate pastor roles. In 1989, Meadors took over as pastor for Abundant Life Fellowship in Pilot, Virginia, where his family remained for 13 years. Here, in a parsonage surrounded by beautiful countryside and numerous cows, the Meadors family, now including children Maria, Jacob, and Timothy, would thrive.

Meadors has served in the Appalachian conference for 41 years to date. He was ordained in 1986, and that same year, the CE (Christian Education) Director at the time, David Wood, asked Meadors to fill an unexpired term on the CE Board. Meadors has continued uninterrupted in some sort of board ministry since then. In 2002, he took over as the CE Director of the Conference, under then Superintendent Ken Kingrea. This position required his family to move onto the Maranatha Campgrounds in Dublin, Virginia, where they ran the summer camps. Since 2010, Meadors has served as the Missions and Evangelism Director under Preston Mathena. In this role, he focused on church planting, revitalizations, promoting missions through offering and support, and the “nuts and bolts” for the Superintendent and the conference. In 2023, Meadors was elected to a second role as the Assistant Superintendent.

Now, as the newly-installed Superintendent, he and Gloria are “excited for this new season of ministry.” The Meadors have spent decades of ministry with their sleeves rolled up, and this new season will just be an extension of what they have been doing. Meadors believes that a “Bishop is called to be a pastor to the pastors,” and he plans to do everything he can to fulfill that role.

On a return trip from India, where the team ministered directly to pastors, the Lord gave Meadors a vision for the Appalachian Conference:

- *It’s Time for a Season of Revival. We need to look for it and cooperate.*
- *It’s Time to Raise Up Sons and Daughters. To bring modeling, mentoring, and launching out to the forefront.*
- *It’s Time to Strengthen Our Bonds Together. Emphasize fellowship and create a culture of ministering together.*

Meadors’ next season will be built upon the foundation of the past leadership of the conference. He shares: “It doesn’t seem real in a sense, to be asked to do this.” He goes on: “Ministry flows out of being a servant. We are so ready to serve pastors and churches and get back into a pastoral role.” Meadors’ grandmother would be pleased to see that he did, in fact, “make a preacher” and serve his conference with commitment and love.

(Article copied by permission from IPHC News, by Jessi Lowe.)

(For more information go to <https://iphc.org/news/>)

You can watch the installation video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EbQJRC3GIfE>

TEAM DESCENDS ON WV **July 7-10, 2025**

A team of dedicated believers from different locations in VA, WV, and NC met in McDowell County, WV, on Monday, July 7, 2025, at the Old School ATV Retreat in Gary, WV. The group of 42 ranged in age from 13 to 73.

Led by Larry Meadors and Ron Fredricks, this single-minded, well-oiled machine went into the poorest county in the United States to share and spread the love of Jesus Christ. Pastor Danny Pruitt of Trinity Temple in Welch was our local coordinator.

The extremely successful mission consisted of visiting the following IPHC churches: Big Four, Coalwood, English, Gary, Leckie, Premier, Roderfield, Welch, and Yukon. Countless lives were touched, and we believe numerous individuals were changed, young and old.

A team of hardworking men went out for two days doing some much-needed repairs in the basement of one of the churches. The other team members split up into groups and visited other churches, doing kids' ministry. Still, others walked diligently through many neighborhoods, evangelizing, praying with individuals and families, and passing out flyers for the Faith and Fun Fest Event at Linkous Park in Welch.

Leading up to the Fun Fest, there were a couple of days of rain. Even heading to the park on the day of the event, there was a heavy downpour. Despite the rain, our spirits were never dampened. With much prayer, driving to the park, and even after we arrived, God was faithful in parting the clouds and allowing the sun to brighten the day, making way for a very successful, fun-filled, and blessed day.

The community turned out in wonderful numbers, excited about what was taking place. There were two bouncy houses for the kids, along with games and lots of kite flying. A hot dog wagon provided free, all-you-can-eat hot dogs, chips, cookies, and water.

As God continued to hold back the rain, live worship music filled the air, a wonderful skit was performed, and a rousing testament was given. The kids were having a wonderful time, while the parents/adults were graciously enjoying all that was going on, even receiving prayer from team members.

The event culminated with a great backpack giveaway. On hand were 400 backpacks with school supplies for the kids, and 100 backpacks for seniors 55+, with hygiene products. What an exciting time that was for young and old alike.

The Wonderful, Faithful, and Loving God that we serve held back the rain until we wrapped up and packed up. With our mission completed, we had a satisfying, rainy drive back to our headquarters. I believe that God was and is well pleased with our efforts and commitment.

Ron reported that one of the church leaders suggested that this mission be made into an annual event!

Written by Minister Howard J. White



The Retired Minister's Dinner



On the evening of June 11, the Appalachian Conference transformed into a sanctuary of warmth as the Retired Ministers' Dinner unfolded in the Canteen. It was a joyous gathering, bringing together a remarkable assembly of former retired ministers and their spouses, and widows of our former retired ministers, who gathered for dinner prior to the second service of Camp Meeting. The air was vibrant as Bishop Preston Mathena took a moment to honor the incredible legacy of faith and dedication represented by the men and women present in the room.

Everyone delighted in a plentiful meal, skillfully prepared with C. J. Cole's expertise on the smoker and the assistance of Ron Fredericks. This was complemented by the delectable sides and desserts crafted by Mary Cochran, Kerri Wright, and their dedicated staff. A heartfelt acknowledgement goes to Laura Cole, Pam Fredericks, Gloria Meadors, Beth Neff, Todd & Tammy Porter, and Vanessa Scruggs, whose efforts ensured that every guest felt valued and cared for.

After everyone enjoyed their meal, Wanda Myers led the attendees in a soulful rendition of beloved hymns with voices harmonizing in a beautiful chorus of praise to our God! Indeed, it was a night filled with the spirit of grace, reminding everyone of the profound impact of their shared faith and commitment to serving God and one another.

Dr. A. D. Beacham, Jr., a beacon of inspiration and the General Superintendent for the International Pentecostal Holiness Church, graced us with his presence and wisdom during the devotions. Drawing from the profound insights of Ecclesiastes 12:1, 6, 7, he passionately reminded us that in the realm of ministry, there is no such thing as retirement; instead, we embark on new assignments with renewed vigor and pace. With a touch of humor, he referenced Rick Warren's clever term "re-tiring," likening it to equipping a vehicle with fresh tires for the road ahead. This analogy resonated deeply, emphasizing that our journey continues, transformed and invigorated for what's next. He concluded with the uplifting words of the Apostle Paul from 2 Corinthians 4:16, affirming that while our outer selves may face the test of time, our inner spirit is rejuvenated daily. This powerful message leaves us with the optimistic truth that we remain eternally youthful at heart, ready to embrace every new chapter with enthusiasm and grace!

Following Dr. Beacham's inspiring devotion, Pastor Todd Porter and Vanessa Scruggs took on the delightful task of drawing for the door prizes, adding an element of excitement to the gathering. The winners of the coveted gift cards, Margaret Rogers and Freda Wood, were met with applause. As our time together drew to a close, the atmosphere was filled with friendly chatter and laughter, creating an inviting ambiance as attendees eagerly prepared for the evening service to honor three of our recently retired ministers.





Discipleship Ministries

Ron Fredericks

www.appconf.org



CAMP MARATHA

ONE WEEK WILL CHANGE A LIFE

2025 CAMP STATS

Salvations: 113 Rededications: 118

Sanctifications: 151

Baptism of the Holy Spirit: 102

Healing: 182

CALL to MINISTRY: 159

We give God all the glory for every experience. We continue to believe that *one week will change a life*. We covenant with the local church to pray that God will keep all that we commit to Him!

We commit every child and experience into the hands of God that His Spirit will nurture and bring to full maturity each experience and call.



2025 ADVENTURE CAMP



2025 DESTINY CAMP



2025 EXTREME TEEN CAMP

SPIRITUAL HOUSE

YOUTHQUEST 2025

JULY 17 - 20, 2025 | EMMANUEL UNIVERSITY



CONGRATULATIONS!!

APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE NATIONAL FINE ARTS PARTICIPANTS

Katelyn Neel – Caldwell PHC
 Stone Horton – Hillsville PHC
 Jordan Willis – Hillsville PHC
 Maggie Carico – Hillsville PHC
 Aaliya Hampton – Hillsville PHC
 Olivia Simone – Hillsville PHC
 Talon Henley – Hillsville PHC
 Brooke Parnell – Life Changers
 Seth Ortiz – Life Changers
 Mikeala Johnson – Life Changers
 Atlantis Johnson – Life Changers
 Derek Furrow – New Life Christian Ministries
 Abigail Hillenberg – St. Paul PHC

COME JOIN THE FUN



Discipleship
MATTERS

ENCORE MINISTRIES SENIOR PICNIC
September 13, 2025
CLAYTOR LAKE STATE PARK - SHELTER #1



APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE
GOLDEN EAGLE ENCORE MINISTRIES



WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US!

Created
with a
Purpose

Ephesians
2:10



\$70
Registration
Includes:
Lodging
Meals
T-Shirt
Conference
Access



ASHLYN KIRTNER
WORSHIP LEADER



CANDACE LYNCH
EVENT SPEAKER



JENNIFER WADE
91 FEATHERS

GIRLS' MINISTRIES WEEKEND RETREAT



SEPTEMBER 12-14, 2025

7:00 PM

APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE CAMP GROUND
4600 MARANATHA ST., DUBLIN, VA 24084

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO RSVP:

PLEASE CONTACT -

GIRL'S MIISTRY DIRECTOR - PASTOR ELAINE WOOD

EMAIL: GIRLZ4JC@GMAIL.COM

PHONE: 540-357-5614

FACEBOOK: APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE GIRLS MINISTRY





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ENCORE MINISTRIES

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Discipleship
Ministry

**JOIN
US!**

*limited seats

Wednesday - Friday ,
24th - 26th September



Pigeon Forge, TN 37863



**SCAN CODE TO
REGISTER NOW!**



DISCIPLESHIP DEVELOPMENT

Appalachian Conference

October 18, 2025

9:30 – 2:30 pm

**Registration: \$15 per person, includes lunch
(maximum \$100 per church)**

THE IFF

(The Initiative for Faith and Family)

**Speaker: Tim Shepherd
Program Director**



Inspire

parents and other caregivers, church pastors, staff and lay leaders with the vision of successfully passing down their faith to the next generation.

Equip

parents, caregivers and their churches with strategic, programmatic and relational resources designed to help them pass down their faith to the next generation.

Support

Parents, caregivers and their churches with intentional care and culturally relevant resources to help them pass down their faith to the next generation.

ENCORE SENIOR MINISTRY

Christmas BUS TRIP

Nov 18-20, 2025

Lancaster, Pa



AMERICAN MUSIC
THEATRE



Register Now!



SIGHT & SOUND



Men's Ministries

Steve Winesett



REGISTRATION \$10.00
2ND CAR: \$2.00

WE ARE VERY EXCITED TO INVITE YOU TO THE COLT BARKER MEMORIAL DERBY DAY, HOSTED BY BOYS' MINISTRIES AND HELD ON AUG 2 AT THE APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE CAMPGROUNDS IN DUBLIN, VA. EVERYONE IS WELCOME; IT'S AN EXCITING TIME FOR KIDS AND ADULTS OF ALL AGES! THIS WILL BE A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE ONE OF BOYS' MINISTRIES FAVORITE EVENTS.

**CHECK-IN, PIT TIME,
AND WEIGH-IN WILL BE FROM
8:00 – 9:30 A.M.
RACING WILL BEGIN AT 10:00 A.M.**

Saturday, August 2, 2025

REGISTER
IN PERSON
OR
ONLINE AT:
[HTTPS://APPALACHIAN-CONFERENCE-
DISCIPLESHIP-MINISTRIES-
469743.CHURCHCENTER.COM/REGISTRATIONS/
EVENTS/2786988](https://appalachian-conference-discipleship-ministries-469743.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2786988)



Women's Ministries

Tammy Porter



“Connecting Generations One Pie at a Time”

Being Women's Ministries Director, I am often questioned on how to begin, grow or revive a local church Women's Ministries. I enjoy helping other leaders come up with new ideas and vision for a wonderful ministry that needs to continue for many years to come.

Often in ministry we find that what worked in the past doesn't always work for now. That's not a bad thing. It helps remind us that we can't get stuck doing programs that just use up our energy and focus but no longer grow and flourish. It's then that we stop, regroup and change things up a bit.

I'm not saying that what we did in the past wasn't good. As a matter of fact, it was great! It worked well. Our ladies did an amazing job and worked hard keeping the churches up to date with new carpet, pews, kitchens, etc. If it weren't for the hard work of the ladies, our Christian institutions wouldn't be what they are today. We are so thankful for all prayers and sacrifices that our women made to keep churches moving forward and colleges open.

Over the past few years I have discovered that if a church is bringing ladies together for any reason, they have a women's ministry. Try inviting the younger girls into these gatherings. Let's grow them up to love ministering to women and continue this wonderful tradition that can impact ladies for generations down the road.

“How can we do that?” I'm glad you asked. Those ladies who may be gifted in cooking, have a cooking class and teach the girls how to make biscuits, bake cakes or pies. Anything to bring them together, impart wisdom and show them love. You may find this doesn't just work on the younger girls but their moms as well. Maybe you can quilt. Bring the younger generations together and have a Quilty. This is a perfect opportunity to share stories, testimonies and make sweet relationships. Have the young teach the old how to use a cell phone or iPad. Whatever it takes to bring them together and build friendships. Bridging the gap between the ages makes lifetime memories that make a generational impact.

I have seen this work, first hand, in my own church. We have a wonderful friend who loves Jesus and is basically good at everything. Her name is Desneiges. Recently, she brought several ladies and one little lad into her home for a cooking class. She taught them how to make homemade crust for a blackberry pie. Our granddaughter, Hazel, is ten years old and is a very talented baker. She loves making things from scratch. All of her cookies, cakes, eclairs and creme puffs are made from ingredients that do not come from a box. She was invited to sit in on the pie making and learn from the best how to create her own masterpiece in a pie plate.

This may not seem to be a women's ministry to some but when I look at it, it is the beginning of a very special friendship with two very different people. One who is just learning what life is and another who has experienced her share of heartaches and happiness. Together, they learn from each other. They are two ladies forming a Christian bond in the middle of the kitchen with some pie dough. They laughed, they shared and they created a beautiful ministry together that will continue to impact others for generations to come.

Women's Ministries is a wonderful way for ladies to draw closer to Jesus, grow in their faith and impact all ages for the glory of God. Let's work to keep this ministry moving forward, using creativity and Godly wisdom. I believe with prayer and patience, we will see God use this opportunity to connect generations one pie at a time.



Pictured l-r: Desneiges Shutt, Hazel Arnold, and Blake Parnell



Unshakable

Women's Conference

SAVE THE DATE

SAVE THE DATE

SAVE THE DATE

"I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With Him at my right hand, I will not be shaken."
Psalm 16:8

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2025 | 7:00 PM

BLACK FOX LODGE

3171 Parkway, Pigeon Forge, TN 37863-3309

Special Guests from Regeneration Nashville



Pastor Candy Hemphill Christmas Worship Pastor Jasmine Brady

For more information contact Tammy Porter, Women's Ministry Director at pastortammy511@yahoo.com

Sponsored by the Appalachian Conference Women's Ministries

REGISTRATION FOR UNSHAKEABLE WOMEN'S CONFERENCE WILL OPEN AUGUST 15.

Area Hotels close to the Black Fox:

Ramada by Wyndham
2193 Parkway
Pigeon Forge, TN 37863-3309
[\(800\)854-9517](tel:(800)854-9517)

Willow Brook Lodge
3035 Parkway
Pigeon Forge, TN 37863-3311
[\(865\)453-5334](tel:(865)453-5334)
[\(800\)765-1380](tel:(800)765-1380)

Vacation Lodge
3450 Parkway
Pigeon Forge, TN 37863-3808
[\(865\)453-2640](tel:(865)453-2640)
[\(800\)468-1998](tel:(800)468-1998)

Quality Inn
3756 Parkway
Pigeon Forge, TN 37863
[\(865\)366-5691](tel:(865)366-5691)

*Please note: The Black Fox Lodge is not offering special rates for the conference.



FAITH VS. FANGS

Daniel was unjustly thrown into the lion's den by jealous men with evil motives. The only thing that Daniel took with him in that den of lions was his faith! How would Daniel's faith hold up against the angry fangs of lions?

Imagine how Daniel felt when the stone was rolled into position to shut the door for the night!

"And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel" (Daniel 6:17 KJV).

THE DEVIL HAD A PURPOSE

The devil had a purpose for Daniel. Even though the lions were meant to be instruments of death, evil spirits were operating behind the scenes. These spirits are noted throughout the Scriptures. Other godly men and women have suffered spiritual attacks by these spirits; namely the spirits of religion, the spirits of Jezebel, and the spirits of witchcraft!

Evil spirits desire bodies. We are spirits with bodies. Our spirits are from God. However, demons are evil spirits without bodies. In order to express themselves, they search for a suitable body. If the evil spirit cannot enter a human body, they will enter animals. This example is seen when Jesus cast the demons out of a man. Legion was the name of the demon and associated spirits. When Jesus commanded the demons to leave, they entered into a herd of 2000 pigs. (Mark 5:13,14)

Jesus informed his disciples that demons roam through the land looking for a place to dwell.

"When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walks through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. Then he says, I will return into my house from where I came out; and when he is come (returns) he finds it empty, swept and garnished. Then he goes, and takes with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation" (Matthew 12:43-45).

SPIRITUAL WARFARE LED TO PHYSICAL WARFARE

The warfare is real. Sometimes, people take the approach to ignore the conflicts caused by evil spirits. But such an approach is contrary to Jesus. He told us to WATCH and PRAY. (Luke 21:36) We must know the enemy as well as the Victorious Jesus.

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Ephesians 6:12).

THE JEZEBEL SPIRIT

Certain evil leaders appointed by the king were extremely jealous of Daniel, because he was in a position of authority over them. And King Darius seemed to prefer Daniel. The Jezebel spirit now had willing houses (bodies) to express itself!

There are some key characteristics of this spirit. One main trait is that this spirit will NOT REPENT. There will be no guilt or remorse in these hearts. And they certainly will not repent or admit any wrong.

Often the Jezebel spirit operates with the spirit of witchcraft to deceive and to manipulate its victims. Revenge is Jezebel's desire. And the fruit they express is revenge and retaliation!

Such was the nature of the evil leaders, for they devised a plot to bring accusation against Daniel. They invented a law in the area of prayer. Nobody was to pray to any god beside the king for 30 days. Such a law appealed to the king. (Daniel 6) Without hesitation, Daniel continued to pray to the true God. And they accused him of this action!

DANIEL'S FAITH

Daniel was about 80 years old when he was thrust into the lion's den. Research suggests that there were 7 to 9 lions in the den.

In the face of fear, Daniel maintained a posture of prayer. Heaven responded by sending an angel in the den with Daniel. The angel shut the mouths of the lions.

IN THE FACE OF AFFLICTIONS

The fangs of lions stared Daniel in the face. But he remained steadfast in his faith. The same God that sent an angel to shut the mouths of lions, is able and willing to terminate the attacks that you face!

The night of the lions is over. A new day with new victory is here!



September Calendar

- 1 Labor Day (Conference Office Closed)**
- 6 Ministerial Training Class**
- 9 Kids' Ministries Virtual Event**
- 12-14 Girls' Ministries Retreat**
- 13 Senior Picnic**
- 19 ATAM Golf Tournament**
- 25-26 Encore Ministries Bus Trip**
- 25-27 Leadership Council**